

***IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE***

Applicant: Tetsuichiro YAMAMOTO, et al.  
Title: IMAGE READING METHOD AND  
APPARATUS FOR SAME  
Appl. No.: Unassigned  
Filing Date: 04/25/2001  
Examiner: Unassigned  
Art Unit: Unassigned

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

- 1           17. (Amended) The image reading apparatus according to Claim 12,  
2    wherein said reading device is constructed as a color reading device, and  
3    wherein an image processing circuit for gray-level correction is provided  
4    between said storing device and said analog to digital converting circuit making  
5    up said image signal outputting.

Please add the following new claim:

- 1           18. (New) The image reading apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein  
2    said reading device is constructed as a color reading device, and wherein an  
3    image processing circuit for gray-level correction is provided between said  
4    storing device and said analog to digital converting circuit making up said image  
5    signal outputting.

**REMARKS**

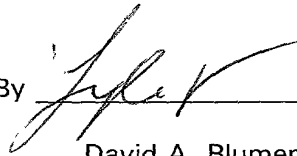
The foregoing amendments are being made in order to correct a typographical error and to avoid the payment of government fees for multiple dependent claims. No new matter has been added.

Respectfully submitted,

Date April 25, 2001

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Marked-up Version Showing Changes

In the Claims

17. (Amended) The image reading apparatus according to Claim [21 or Claim 16] 12, wherein said reading device is constructed as a color reading device, and wherein an image processing circuit for gray-level correction is provided between said storing device and said analog to digital converting circuit making up said image signal outputting.